IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-4, 13-31, and 46-64, and please amend claims 5, 6, 8, 10, 32, 35, 39, 44, 65, 68, 72, and 77, as set forth below.

Claims 1-4 (Canceled)

5. (Currently Amended) A system comprising:

a router having a port, the router coupled with a network;

a ~~first dispatcher~~ number of dispatchers coupled with the port, ~~the first dispatcher~~ each of the dispatchers having a local dispatch table, wherein ~~including~~ at least ~~one~~ two of the dispatchers share a session entry identifying a client and a selected server; and

~~at least a second dispatcher coupled with the port, the second dispatcher having a local dispatch table including a session entry identifying the client and the selected server;~~

~~a network, each of the first dispatcher and the second dispatcher coupled with the network; and~~

a plurality of servers, each of the plurality of servers coupled with ~~the network~~ each of the number of dispatchers;

wherein the router directs each communication received from the network to one of the number of dispatchers, the one dispatcher to determine which of the plurality of servers is to receive the communication.

6. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5, ~~the network comprising~~ wherein the number dispatchers and the plurality of servers are interconnected by a system area network.

7. (Original) The system of claim 6, the system area network exhibiting an InfiniBand® architecture.

8. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5, wherein the ~~router is coupled with one~~ network comprises one or more networks selected from a group consisting of a Local Area Network, a Wide Area Network, a Metropolitan Area Network, and the Internet.

9. (Original) The system of claim 5, the port of the router exhibiting port trunking.

10. (Currently Amended) The system of claim 5, wherein the ~~first dispatcher and the second dispatcher exhibiting~~ number of dispatchers have identical network addresses.

11. (Original) The system of claim 5, the plurality of servers comprising:
a first server group providing a first application; and
at least a second server group providing a second, different application.

12. (Original) The system of claim 11, each of the first server group and the second server group comprising at least one server.

Claims 13-31 (Canceled)

32. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:
receiving a packet at one dispatcher of a plurality of dispatchers, the plurality of dispatchers coupled with a plurality of servers;
searching a local dispatch table of said one dispatcher;
transmitting the packet from said one dispatcher to a server of the plurality of servers if the local dispatch table identifies the server; and
transmitting the packet from said one dispatcher to a locking dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers if the local dispatch table includes a client lock, the client lock indicating that communications received from the client are to be transmitted to the locking dispatcher until a server is selected for the client.

33. (Original) The method of claim 32, wherein the local dispatch table includes the client lock, the method further comprising:
selecting a server from the plurality of servers; and
transmitting the packet from the locking dispatcher to the selected server.

34. (Original) The method of claim 33, further comprising broadcasting a dispatch table update from the locking dispatcher to all other dispatchers of the plurality of dispatchers, the dispatch table update identifying the selected server and indicating removal of the client lock.

35. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a first packet at one dispatcher of a plurality of dispatchers, the first packet including a connection request from a client;

creating a client lock on packets received from the client, the client lock indicating that packets received from the client are to be transmitted to said one dispatcher until a server is selected for the client; and

broadcasting a dispatch table update from said one dispatcher to all other dispatchers of the plurality of dispatchers, the dispatch table update indicating the client lock.

36. (Original) The method of claim 35, further comprising:

receiving at least a second packet at another dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers; and

transmitting the second packet from said another dispatcher to said one dispatcher.

37. (Original) The method of claim 36, further comprising:

selecting a server from a plurality of servers coupled with the plurality of dispatchers; and

transmitting the first packet and the second packet to the selected server.

38. (Original) The method of claim 37, further comprising broadcasting another dispatch table update from said one dispatcher to said all other dispatchers, said another dispatch table update identifying the selected server and indicating removal of the client lock.

39. (Currently Amended) A method comprising:

receiving a packet at a router having a port coupled with a plurality of dispatchers, the packet including a connection request from a client;

transmitting the packet from the router to a first dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers;

selecting a server from a plurality of servers coupled with the plurality of dispatchers;

placing a session entry in a local dispatch table of the first dispatcher, the session entry identifying the client and the selected server;

broadcasting a dispatch table update from the first dispatcher to all other dispatchers of the plurality of dispatchers, the dispatch table update identifying the client and the selected server; ~~and~~

transmitting the packet to the selected server;

receiving a second packet at the router from the client; and

transmitting the second packet from the router to a second dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers, the second dispatcher to search a local dispatch table of the second dispatcher to identify the selected server and transmit the second packet to the selected server.

40. (Original) The method of claim 39, further comprising:
selecting a communication link from a plurality of communication links, each of the plurality of communication links coupling one of the plurality of dispatchers with the port of the router; and
transmitting the packet over the selected communication link to the first dispatcher.

41. (Original) The method of claim 40, further comprising randomly selecting the communication link from the plurality of communication links.

42. (Original) The method of claim 39, further comprising:
determining a load on each of the plurality of servers; and
selecting the server at least partially in response to the load on said each server.

43. (Original) The method of claim 39, further comprising:
identifying an application associated with the packet; and
selecting the server at least partially in response to the identified application.

44. (Currently Amended) The method of ~~claim 43, further comprising: placing a client lock on the packet;~~ claim 39, wherein the first dispatcher and the second dispatcher comprise the same dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers ~~receiving at least one other packet at another dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers; and transmitting said at least one other packet from said another dispatcher to the first dispatcher~~.

45. (Original) The method of claim 39, further comprising replacing in the packet a network address associated with each of the plurality of dispatchers with a network address of the selected server.

Claims 46-64 (Canceled)

65. (Currently Amended) A article of manufacture comprising:
a machine accessible medium, the machine accessible medium providing instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to
receive a packet at one dispatcher of a plurality of dispatchers, the plurality of dispatchers coupled with a plurality of servers;
search a local dispatch table of said one dispatcher;
transmit the packet from said one dispatcher to a server of the plurality of servers if the local dispatch table identifies the server; and
transmit the packet from said one dispatcher to a locking dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers if the local dispatch table includes a client lock, the client lock indicating that communications received from the client are to be transmitted to the locking dispatcher until a server is selected for the client.

66. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 65, the local dispatch table including the client lock, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:
select a server from the plurality of servers; and
transmit the packet from the locking dispatcher to the selected server.

67. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 66, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to broadcast a dispatch table update from the locking dispatcher to all other dispatchers of the plurality of dispatchers, the dispatch table update identifying the selected server and indicating removal of the client lock.

68. (Currently Amended) A article of manufacture comprising:

a machine accessible medium, the machine accessible medium providing instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to

receive a first packet at one dispatcher of a plurality of dispatchers, the first packet including a connection request from a client;

create a client lock on packets received from the client, the client lock indicating that packets received from the client are to be transmitted to said one dispatcher until a server is selected for the client; and

broadcast a dispatch table update from said one dispatcher to all other dispatchers of the plurality of dispatchers, the dispatch table update indicating the client lock.

69. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 68, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine:
receive at least a second packet at another dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers; and
transmit the second packet from said another dispatcher to said one dispatcher.

70. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 69, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:
select a server from a plurality of servers coupled with the plurality of dispatchers; and
transmit the first packet and the second packet to the selected server.

71. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 70, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to broadcast another dispatch table update from said one dispatcher to said all other dispatchers, said another dispatch table update identifying the selected server and indicating removal of the client lock.

72. (Currently Amended) A article of manufacture comprising:

a machine accessible medium, the machine accessible medium providing instructions that, when executed by a machine, cause the machine to

receive a packet at a router having a port coupled with a plurality of dispatchers, the packet including a connection request from a client;

transmit the packet from the router to a first dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers;

select a server from a plurality of servers coupled with the plurality of dispatchers;

place a session entry in a local dispatch table of the first dispatcher, the session entry identifying the client and the selected server;

broadcast a dispatch table update from the first dispatcher to all other dispatchers of the plurality of dispatchers, the dispatch table update identifying the client and the selected server; ~~and~~

transmit the packet to the selected server;

receive a second packet at the router from the client; and

transmit the second packet from the router to a second dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers, the second dispatcher to search a local dispatch table of the second dispatcher to identify the selected server and transmit the second packet to the selected server.

73. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 72, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:

select a communication link from a plurality of communication links, each of the plurality of communication links coupling one of the plurality of dispatchers with the port of the router; and

transmit the packet over the selected communication link to the first dispatcher.

74. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 73, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to randomly select the communication link from the plurality of communication links.

75. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 72, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:

determine a load on each of the plurality of servers; and

select the server at least partially in response to the load on said each server.

76. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 72, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:

identify an application associated with the packet; and

select the server at least partially in response to the identified application.

77. (Currently Amended) The article of manufacture of ~~claim 76, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to:~~ claim 72, wherein the first dispatcher and the second dispatcher comprise the same dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers

~~place a lock on the packet;~~

~~receive at least one other packet at another dispatcher of the plurality of dispatchers; and~~

~~transmit said at least one other packet from said another dispatcher to the first dispatcher~~.

78. (Original) The article of manufacture of claim 72, wherein the instructions, when executed, further cause the machine to replace in the packet a network address associated with each of the plurality of dispatchers with a network address of the selected server.